THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is aimed at encouraging capacity addition by further rationalization of existing policy.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Mega Power Policy, the following fiscal concessions/ benefits are available:—

(i) **Zero Customs Duty:** Import of capital equipment free of customs duty in terms of Notification No. 21/2002 -customs dated 1st March, 2002 of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) read together with Notification No. 49/2006-Customs dated 26th May, 2006.

(ii) **Deemed Export Benefits:** Under Chapter 8 of the Foreign Trade Policy, Deemed Export Benefits are available to domestic bidders for mega power projects both under public and private sector, on following the stipulations prescribed therein.

In addition to the above, income-tax holiday as per Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act 1961 is also available to mega power projects.

The capacity addition targets to the tune of 78,577 MW has been envisaged for the 11th Plan. Generation targets are fixed on a year to year basis. For the year 2007-08, a generation target of 710 Billion Units (BU) (including import from Bhutan) has been fixed.

Training of workforce in power PSUs

1805. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has recently advised the power generating PSUs and other allied undertakings, to accord desired importance to the training of their workforce, to enhance the generation capacities to a high level than at the present;

(b) if so, how manay PSUs have responded and what measures have been initiated by these undertakings to introduce internal training modules in their HR practices;

(c) what has been the outcome of the said measures and how far they have contributed in enhancing the generation capacities of the undertakings; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Power has from time to time and at various forums advised Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control to accord importance to training of their work force. According to the "National Training Policy" of the Ministry of Power, all PSUs should allocate adequate funds to training and development activities for meeting the stipulated training requirements.

The various power generation PSUs like NTPC Ltd., National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVNL), Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd. (THDC), North Eastern Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) have complied with the advice of this Ministry. The PSUs are

giving their workforce at various levels multifaceted exposure so that their attitudinal, behavioural and functional orientation is towards delivering optimum power generation output.

Various internal training modules have been prepared on the basis of organisational needs and individual employee need assessment. The competency enhancement of employees are undertaken through induction level, refresher level and advance level human resource development programmes.

Employees engaged in generation and maintenance of power plants are also being deputed within and outside the country for various training programmes on power plant maintenance, effective and efficient handling of machinery and use of new technology to achieve the optimum utilization of machine capacity.

(c) and (d) Continuous training of workforce of generating PSUs has been one of the significant factors in enhancing the performance of generating plants. With the help of these trainings, PSUs have been able to maintain and operate the machines in an efficient manner, with emphasis on preventive maintenance. This has also resulted in reduced breakdowns/outages thereby giving a far better plant performance leading to a higher plant load factor (PLF).

Funds for rural electrification in Karnataka

1806. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request from Karnataka, for releasing the first instalment under RGGVY through Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. for the remaining nine districts of the State, has been pending with the Central Government since December, 2006; and

(b) if so, the present status of the case and by when the necessary funds are likely to be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Karnataka Government had requested release of first instalment against nine district based projects under RGGVY.

(b): All these nine projects though sanctioned but were kept on hold for execution during 10th Plan Period, as such first instalment against these projects could not be released. Of these nine projects, the Monitoring Committee on RGGVY has subsequently accorded approval for execution of six projects during Phase-I of the 11th Plan period and the balance three projects are to be considered during Phase-II of the 11th Plan period, the details of these are given in the Statement (*See* below).

The first instalment against the sanctioned six projects for execution during Phase-I of the 11th Plan shall be released on completion of pre-requisites in terms of RGGVY guidelines/ sanction letter.